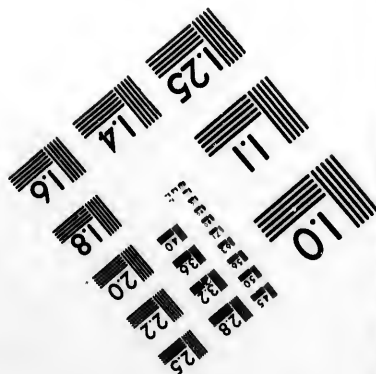
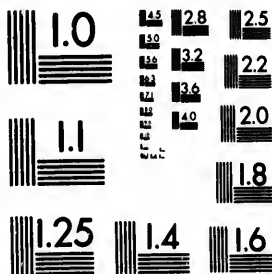


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TEST TARGET (MT-3)**



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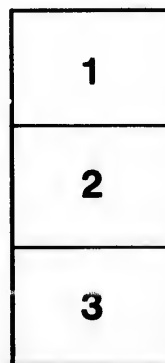
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EQUAL RIGHTS.

MR. JOHN CHARLTON'S

OPEN LETTER TO

REV. PRINCIPAL CAVEN, D.D.,

Dated May 9th, 1890.

Recent Modifications of the Separate School Law are in substance what our platform demands.—DR. CAVEN.

All attempts to make party capital out of the Separate School Question are either ignorant or dishonest.—DR. CAVEN.

**MR. JOHN CHARLTON'S OPEN LETTER ADDRESSED
TO REV. PRINCIPAL CAVEN, DATED MAY 9th,
1890.**

MY DEAR PRINCIPAL CAVEN.—I have given careful consideration to the address decided upon by the majority of the Council of the Equal Rights Association, at a meeting held in Toronto on the afternoon of May 3rd, and issued yesterday by the Committee on Address appointed by the Council. I have felt the greater necessity for care in its consideration because I had not been consulted as to the various resolutions, which had evidently been thoroughly considered before they were submitted to the Council, and not having them before me I could not, during the desultory discussion and rapid consideration, give to them upon the moment that degree of consideration necessary to a thorough comprehension of their purport and character. I have also borne in mind that the meeting of the Council was called without your knowledge, that your advice as to the resolutions presented had not been asked, and that you as well as myself only knew what they were as they were presented to the Council. * * * (The paragraph here omitted relates to Dominion affairs and is therefore left out.)

I can hardly acquiesce in the assertion that the principle that every person must be considered to be a Public School supporter, unless, being a Roman Catholic, he had by proper notice declared himself a supporter of Separate Schools, had, at least prior to the legislation of last session, been violated by the School Law. In 1886 the Attorney-General of Ontario emphatically denied that such was the case. The question was subsequently referred to the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice for Ontario, and the decision of the Court was held to sustain the opinion of the Attorney-General.

As to the statement made that the Council does not deem it expedient to express any positive opinion as to whether the amend-

ments of the school law made last Session are or are not sufficient to attain the desired end, I cannot give my assent. The statement implies a doubt **when in my belief, unqualified approval is fully deserved, and I am prepared to express a positive opinion that the Act to amend the Public and Separate Schools Act, which received the royal assent on the 7th of April last, does remove all ambiguity and doubt as to the question.**

The address states that Roman Catholic Separate Schools are guaranteed by the British North America Act, and that this provision has been declared against by the Council of the Association. While I am, upon principle, opposed to Separate Denominational Schools receiving State aid, and while I consider the Separate School system of Ontario an evil, it would I think be proper, for the full information of the Ontario elector, to state in any address upon the subject **that the same guarantee which secures Catholics Separate Schools in Ontario, secures valued educational rights and Separate Public Schools to the Protestant minority of Quebec, and the constitutional guarantee and settlement if withdrawn from the one is also withdrawn from the other, as it applies jointly to both Provinces.** This being the status of the case in both Ontario and Quebec, the question is a very delicate one, and **it is a matter worthy of serious consideration as to what extent action should be taken in the premises without the interests of the Protestants of Quebec being considered, and their approval and co-operation secured.**

* * * * (Paragraph omitted also relates to Dominion affairs.) I endorse most fully the sentiments of your letter of April 29th. Its statements, its admonitions, and its warnings unmistakably evince the possession of rare prudence and foresight on the part of

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the writer. Its position as regards the Separate School law, and the recent amendments to that law, is true and impartial. Your warning that the very existence of the Association depends upon the scrupulous impartiality with which all matters that affect or involve party shall be treated was most timely, and the spirit of your communication will furnish as good a guide as can be desired for all who do not desire to make the Equal Rights Association subordinate to party purposes.

While thankful for the great results that have already sprung from the Equal Rights movement, especially in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, and while in thorough accord with the great principles upon which it was organized and upon the line of which it should prosecute its mission, I deprecate any act which may beget the suspicion that its influence is to be made in the most remote degree auxiliary to mere party aims.

I beg to acknowledge my high appreciation of the services which you, as President of the Association, have so admirably performed, and to state my belief that its success has been largely due to your high character, your knowledge and your rare discretion. It is with diffidence and some degree of misgiving that I venture to criticize, in any respect, the work of the Committee on Address, of which I was appointed a member, and to withhold my signature from the address for the reason, as above stated, that I am unable to agree with some of its material statements.

Faithfully yours,

JOHN CHARLTON.

To WM. CAVEN, D.D.,
President Equal Rights Association, Toronto.

OTTAWA, MAY 24th, 1890.

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